



## Indian Cultural Center

### What is this project about?

In keeping with Yosemite's *General Management Plan*, the National Park Service entered into an agreement with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. (Council; Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation) in 1997 to work together in establishing an Indian Cultural Center at the site of the last historically occupied Indian village in Yosemite Valley, just west of the Camp 4 walk-in campground. This center will provide a location for American Indian people to practice traditional ceremonies and activities, as well as teach traditional lifeways. The center will be available to the public and provide a unique opportunity for visitor awareness of local Indian culture. Through this understanding of local culture and traditions, guests will gain a greater respect for the natural wonders of the park and their significance to Indian culture.

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### What is happening now on this project?

A conceptual design was prepared by the Council of Mariposa County with a grant provided by The Yosemite Fund. A preliminary site design and analysis was performed early in 2002, and a final site concept presentation was made by the Council to the National Park Service in August 2002. Environmental assessments and studies (funded by the National Park Service) have been completed. The Yosemite Fund has granted funds to support necessary archeological investigations. Those investigations are underway in partnership with NPS, AICMC, and Fresno University. Construction and maintenance of the Indian Cultural Center will be the responsibility of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County.

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### What does this project include?

The project is designed with two major components—a traditional village and a modern community building. The traditional structures will be built by tribal members and volunteers. Design for the modern structures and improvements have been completed by the National Park Service. Fundraising for this project continues.

The Indian Cultural Center will encompass the following elements:

- Facilities will consist of structures and landscape features typical of an Indian village from the mid- to late-19th century. One large, partly subterranean ceremonial roundhouse and a smaller sweatlodge will be constructed. Approximately 15 cedar bark *umachas* (conical houses) will be built in the vicinity of the roundhouse and sweatlodge. Plants important for food, basketry, and medicinal uses may be grown. Existing archeological features, such as mortar rocks, will remain in place and be incorporated into the village design.
  - The last existing structure from the original village (a small cabin currently being used as a National Park Service office) will be moved back to the village and used as the cultural center office.
  - A new kitchen and restroom facility will be constructed in conjunction with the community center.
  - Utilities (water, sewer, propane, road access, and electrical service) will be provided.
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## Public Participation

Add your name to the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning- related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive Yosemite National Park's periodic electronic newsletter.

Mail: Superintendent  
Attn: *Planning Mailing List*  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379- 1294

Email: Yose\_Planning@nps.gov

The status of this and other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online:

[www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).

Visit The Yosemite Fund's web site at [www.yosemitelfund.org](http://www.yosemitelfund.org).

